

R E M A R K S

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Non-Final Office Action dated February 2, 2006. Responsive to the rejections made in the Office Action, Claim 13 has been amended to correct the language thereof. Claims 21 - 23 are added by this Amendment.

In the Office Action, Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Loughlin (324) in view of Huang (076); Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Loughlin (324) in view of Huang (076) and further in view of Meckbach (678); and Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Loughlin (324) in view of Lai (672) and Huang (076).

Responsive to the rejections above, it is believed beneficial to first briefly review the structure of the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now claimed. The invention of the subject Patent Application is directed to a padlock which includes a lock body, a block, a shackle, a combination locking means and a key operated locking means. The lock body has a first channel and a second channel. The block engaged with the second channel and

has a receptacle. The shackle has a longer arm slidably received in the first channel and a shorter arm engageable with the receptacle of said block. The combination locking means is formed in the lock body for locking or unlocking the longer arm of the shackle. The key operated locking means is formed in the lock body for controlling movements of the block in order the block to be engaged with or disengaged from the shorter arm of the shackle. Additionally, the block comprises an engaging portion having the receptacle therein, and a mounting portion under the engaging portion. The key operated locking means comprises a body having a rotor received therein and a driving rod extended from the rotor, which has a keyhole at a bottom end thereof for being engaged with a key. The driving rod is engaged with the mounting portion of the block, and the receptacle has a gap with a width larger than a diameter of the shorter arm of the shackle to be engaged therewith.

In contradistinction, the Loughlin was published on November 18, 2004 that is later than the filing date of the present invention. Therefore, it is believe that the Loughlin cannot make obvious the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now defined in Claim 13, also in Claims 15 and 16.

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Furthermore, nowhere does the Loughlin, Meckbach, Lai and Huang disclose or suggest the block comprises the engaging portion and the mounting portion, which is under the engaging portion, and the driving rod of the key operated locking means is engaged with the mounting portion of the block, as provided by the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now claimed. Thus, the combination of Loughlin, Meckbach, Lai and Huang cannot make obvious the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now defined in Claims 13 ,16 and 21. It is believed that the claims dependent upon Claims 13 and 21 provide further patentably distinct limitations, but are at least patentably distinct for the same reasons as above.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes no new search is needed by the Examiner. Applicant further believes the claims, as amended, are patentable over the prior art, and that this case is now in condition for allowance of all claims therein. Such action is thus respectfully requested. If the Examiner disagrees, or believes for any other reason that direct contact with Applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of the case to finality, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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